

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 27-32 are now present in this application. Claims 27 and 32 are independent.

Claims 1-26 have been canceled, and claims 27-32 have been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

The Examiner has not acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document from the International Bureau. Acknowledgment thereof by the Examiner in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statements filed September 26, 2005 and December 27, 2005, and for providing Applicants with initialed copies of the PTO-SB08 forms filed therewith. It is noted that citations lined through by the Examiner are either a typographical error by Applicant or cited on PTO-892.

Drawings Amendments

The Figure label for Figure 1 has been moved and a typographical error corrected. The word "remained" has been changed to "remaining" in Figures 2B and 3. The wording of S401 and S402 in Figure 4 has been changed to improve clarity.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 15 because of several informalities. In order to overcome this objection, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

Claims 1, 15, 18, 22, 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that the claims are not enabled by the written description or omit critical or essential steps.

Applicant has canceled claims 1, 15, 18, 22, 23 and 26. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language lacks antecedent basis or is not clearly understood.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-26. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-26. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 27-32 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Independent claim 27 recites a combination of steps in a server connected to a plurality of participant's client computers via communication network, the server including an auction database recording item information to be auctioned and auction information with respect to the item which indicates whether the auction is opened or closed, a history database recording a change of a present price of the item with respect to the auction, a reading fee provider database

recording an amount of money of a provider who pays a reading fee which should be paid to read the present price of the item, and an item database recording quantity of the item, a method for on-line auction comprising the steps of:

(a) an auction open step wherein the server determines whether there is an auction opened for the item by making reference to the auction information in the auction database and whether there is any remaining quantity for the item by making reference to the item database if the server receives item information from the participant's client computer, opens a new auction for the item if there is no auction opened for the item and there is any remaining quantity for the item, and records the open of the new auction on the auction database;

(b) a present-price reading step wherein, if the server receives a request for reading the present price of the item from the participant's client computer, the server falls down the present price of the item by an amount of the reading fee, records the change of the present price of the item in the history database, displays the change of the present price on the participant's client computer who requested the reading of the present price, withdraws the reading fee from the money of the reading fee provider and records the remaining amount of the money of the reading fee provider after the withdrawal on the reading fee provider database; whereby the present price of the item is continuously fallen down as the participants request the reading of the present price;

(c) a first bidding judgment step wherein the server determines whether a bid request from the participant's client computer is the first by making reference to the auction information in the auction database;

(d) an auction close step wherein, if the bid request is the first, the server determines the bid requester as a winner and other participants as a loser, closes the auction and changes the record of the auction information in the auction database to indicate that the auction is closed; and

(e) an auction repetition step wherein the server repeats the above steps so that the auction for the item is continuously repeated.

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of steps as set forth in independent claim 27 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Claims 28-31 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 27, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claim 27 which is believed to be allowable. In

addition, claims 28-31 recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art references.

Independent claim 32 recites a combination of steps in a server connected to a plurality of participant's client computers via communication network, the server including an auction database recording item information to be auctioned and auction information with respect to the item which indicates whether the auction is opened or closed, a history database recording a change of a present price of the item with respect to the auction, a reading fee provider database recording an amount of money of a provider who pays a reading fee which should be paid to read the present price of the item, and an item database recording quantity of the item, a method for on-line auction comprising the steps of:

(a) an auction open step wherein the server determines whether there is an auction opened for the item by making reference to the auction information in the auction database and whether there is any remaining quantity for the item by making reference to the item database if the server receives item information from the participant's client computer, opens a new auction for the item if there is no auction opened for the item and there is any remaining quantity for the item, and records the open of the new auction on the auction database;

(b) a present-price reading step wherein, if the server receives a request for reading the present price of the item from the participant's client computer, the server falls down the present price of the item by an amount of the reading fee, records the change of the present price of the item in the history database, displays the change of the present price on the participant's client computer who requested the reading of the present price, withdraws the reading fee from the money of the reading fee provider and records the remaining amount of the money of the reading fee provider after the withdrawal on the reading fee provider database; whereby the present price of the item is continuously fallen down as the participants request the reading of the present price;

(c) an auction close step wherein the server determines whether the present price is below zero, determines the bidder who requests the present price inspection to make the present price below 0 as the winner and other participants as a loser, displays the winning on the winner's computer, change the record of the auction information in the auction database to indicate that the auction is closed; and

(e) an auction repetition step wherein the server repeats the above steps so that the auction for the item is continuously repeated.

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of steps as set forth in independent claim 32 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Consideration and allowance of claims 27-32 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant(s) therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

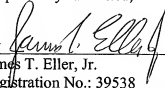
In view of the above amendment, Applicant(s) believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Christopher J. McDonald, Registration No. 41,533, at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: July 1, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Attachment: Replacement Sheets